

Santa Rosa County  
Cooperative Extension Service  
**4-H Summer Camp = Summer Fun**

Canoeing, swimming, archery, nature walks, fun, and friends. Where can you find all this in one place? 4-H Summer Camp at Camp Timpoochee has all this and more.

Santa Rosa County youth age 8-13 will have the opportunity to have a camping experience at 4-H Camp Timpoochee June 19-23. The cost of camp is \$120. Children who are eligible to participate in the School Food Service Free and Reduced lunch program may attend for \$95. The fee includes food and lodging for the Monday through Friday overnight camp located in Niceville, Florida. Youth do not have to be 4-H members to participate in 4-H camp.

School is out, there's no more schoolteachers, textbooks or homework, but a child's education shouldn't stop. Summer offers a relaxed unhurried time for children to learn about many things that aren't easily learned from books.

Summer is a time for children to rest, relax and enjoy childhood. But that shouldn't mean sleeping till noon, becoming a couch potato or video game junkie. Children need to be enjoying the fresh air and sunshine of the great outdoors. They should be exercising their whole bodies, not just their fingers on keyboards and game controls. They should be making friends with other children in person not through e-mail. But most of all, in the summer children should have fun.

Fun is stressed, and life skills are learned at 4-H Camp as youth experience "group living." Many of today's children have their own rooms and don't know what it means to share a room. Getting along with others, consideration for others, and doing one's part are skills that everyone needs. Campers learn these skills as well as basic "housekeeping" skills. Campers assume responsibility for their cabin and compete for the daily clean cabin award. They also assist with dining room chores and other general camp chores as they pick up and clean up after themselves.

4-H Camp offers many of the traditional camping activities, but there are also some new activities. A new modern marine lab equipped with saltwater aquariums and microscopes provides youth with activities to learn about marine

life. The campers collect live marine specimens from the Choctawhatchee Bay and study their catches.

Environmental activities include nature hikes and plant and animal studies. Daytime nature hikes provide opportunities for campers to learn about the forest and its inhabitants. "Owl prowls," night nature walks allow campers to explore the woods and learn that the forest is also active at night.

Recreation activities include, canoeing, swimming, archery and group games. During free time campers may choose up sides for friendly games of softball, volleyball or basketball.

Evening programs also include a mix of traditional and new activities. Campers are encouraged to participate in talent night, skit night and sing alongs with karaoke. Evening campfires provide the perfect setting for singing those old favorite camp songs. The legend of Timpoochee is retold at the last campfire on Thursday evening.

The camp features modern facilities and a trained staff. Air-conditioned log cabins provide comfortable housing for eight to ten children in each bunkroom. Nutritious well-balanced meals are prepared and served in the air-conditioned cafeteria.

A week of fun and learning while making new friends is the goal of 4-H Camp. Parents/guardians of a Santa Rosa County child age 8-13 (age 8 as of September 1, 1999) who is interested in participating in 4-H Camp should contact the Santa Rosa County 4-H Office for information and registration materials. The camp registration deadline has been extended until Friday, June 9. For more information please call the Santa Rosa County 4-H Office at 623-3868 or 939-1259, Extension 1360 (for south county residents).

4-H programs and activities in Santa Rosa County are open to boys and girls ages 5 to 18 regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex or handicap.